

DEERFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
1967 - FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING - 2017
Meeting Minutes – **April 12, 2021**

Roll Call Attendance: Haley Andreozzi, Erick Berglund, Serita Frey, Wes Golomb
Members Absent: Brian Adams
Visitors & Guests: Katrina Amaral, Alan Perkins, Erroll Rhodes

Pursuant to Governor Sununu's *Emergency Order #12*, the Deerfield Conservation Commission met electronically and did not provide a physical location for the public to attend. In order to provide access to the public, a conference phone line and meeting ID number were established and posted in the official Meeting Notice.

PHONE NUMBER: 312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 634 101 4902

Serita Frey opened the meeting at 7:04 pm.

Marston Warrant Article #9:

Katrina Amaral, Executive Director of Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, has been working with Bear-Paw's attorneys to ensure that everything is in place for the "closing" and will confirm what documents will need to be signed by the Deerfield BOS after the anticipated passage of the **Marston Warrant Article #9 on Voting Day, Tuesday June 8th**. **Passage will allow for the Conservation Fund to be reimbursed \$50,000 previously paid into the project.** At the request of LCHIP, Ms. Amaral asked that DCC provide a quote/talking points for a press release about the property and its acquisition. The clerk will arrange to obtain the baseline documents from Bear-Paw.

Easements & Land Protection:

Proposed New Projects:

Ms. Amaral informed the members that Bear-Paw is working with landowners on two separate projects in Deerfield. The smaller of the two projects, a **20-acre donated easement**, is considered to be the last "puzzle piece" to complete the protection of a larger block of land. Bear-Paw is working on a grant for transaction costs. DCC confirmed that it encourages and supports "private" easements, whereby the landowner retains ownership of the land while conserving the parcel with an easement held either by the Town or a qualified land trust.

The second project is in the 250-acre range and would not be a donated easement. Bear-Paw is working with the landowners on the transaction costs and are not yet prepared to publicly share the details of the proposed project.

Bear-Paw has been addressing its lack of visibility in the absence of kiosks and signage on its easements. Their Stewardship Coordinator, Rue Teal, is developing a standard design for the proposed structures. DCC will share the contact information for Jude Dallaire who is coordinating the Cub Scout Pack 138 pending project to replace the sign at Dowst-Cate Town Forest. Ms. Amaral anticipates continuing the above discussions at the May DCC meeting.

DCC was also informed of an inquiry received in a March 16th email to Bear-Paw from a Deerfield resident regarding the land across from her home. The resident expressed an interest in the property remaining undeveloped and inquired about soliciting a conservation easement. Ms. Amaral responded to the inquiry, indicating that previously there had not been an interest in conservation options, and that...*Generally, Bear-Paw or a town conservation commission is approached by the landowner interested in conserving their land.* Notably, there is a considerable amount of protected land nearby which could provide some justification for pursuing the matter further. Protection of a wetland on an abutting property provides additional incentive to ensure the property is safeguarded. DCC can pursue the matter in the future if an appropriate opportunity arises.

Stewardship:

Lindsay-Flanders Conservation Area:

Alan Perkins will install the five metal signs prohibiting snowmobiles, ATV's and dirt bikes. Game cameras have also been ordered and should arrive on 4/17. Mr. Perkins will reach out to his contact at the Deerfield Police Department for an update on the availability of cameras from Fish and Game. Mr. Perkins also confirmed that the breaches in the stone walls can subsequently be restored; however, the longevity of the repairs is questionable.

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Alan Perkins anticipates working with Julie DeCosta to trim and redefine the trails on the Cole Rd. end of Lindsay- Flanders. Bear-Paw holds the easement on the parcel (2014 Conservation Easement – 7 Town Forests and Conservation Areas) and will be consulted about the bridge construction over Nichols Brook. Mr. Perkins referenced the Great Brook Corridor bridge constructed by AmeriCorps volunteers, but expects that the Nichols Brook bridge will present more of a challenge with its high banks and greater width.

Geddes Property - 409-60 and 61, 415-49, 50 and 51 (Adams Hill and Nottingham Rds.)

Serita Frey received emails from two Select Board members regarding excavation activity on the Geddes property, which they believed to be protected by a conservation easement. It was determined that portions of the parcels are conserved with an easement deed (Book 4874 Page 2139) conveyed November 1, 2000 to *The Society for the Protection of NH Forests* (Forest Society). It is believed that some area around the house is excluded. The Deerfield Building Inspector indicated that no building permit has been issued. Jeanne Menard offered to walk over and inquire about the activity. Depending on Ms. Menard's findings, DCC can contact the owner and/or The Forest Society if necessary. DCC will reassess at its May meeting.

Public Outreach/Facebook Page:

Since its inception last month, the DCC Facebook Page has garnered 175 followers. Wes Golomb posted his short interview with Gile Beye and her sister Holly Tomilson about their vision for the donated Marston Family Forest which is "pinned" to the top of the page. **Target dates for posting educational information about the Marston warrant article are April 15th and May 15th.** Members can send a link to the page and the video when they reach out to their individual contacts.

Membership:

DCC is soliciting nominations for membership to fill vacancies on the Commission. Last month members suggested qualifications and Serita Frey posted the following notifications on both the Town and DCC Facebook pages:

The Deerfield Conservation Commission (DCC) is seeking nominations to fill three vacant seats. Candidates should have an interest in the protection of natural resources and willingness to commit to one meeting per month, plus additional time as needed for project work. Candidates having familiarity with natural resources management, wetland protection, grant writing, conservation easements, or trail building/maintenance are of particular interest. Send a brief statement of interest/experience to DCC Chair Serita Frey (serita.frey@gmail.com) by April 25, 2021.

The mission of the Conservation Commission is to provide for the protection and appreciation of the magnificent beauty and heritage of Deerfield through the preservation of open spaces and the protection of our natural resources and wetlands.

Chair Frey reported that **Erroll Rhodes has expressed an interest in becoming a member.** Mr. Rhodes will respond with a formal request for consideration. Wes Golomb will follow up with Josh Freed to confirm Mr. Freed's possible interest and ask him to respond to Serita Frey. Haley Andreozzi suggested members enlist the aid of their individual contacts in seeking out viable candidates.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: *Serita Frey moved to approve the minutes of the March meeting. The motion was seconded by Erick Berglund. Brian Adams, Haley Andreozzi, Erick Berglund, Wes Golomb and Serita Frey unanimously voted to accept the minutes as written.*

Finance:

Haley Andreozzi reported the *unofficial* balance in the conservation fund at the end of March was \$262,515.07 including interest of \$44.58. The 50% portion of Land Use Change Tax being directed to the Conservation Fund for First Quarter 2021 is anticipated to be \$14,150. Ms. Andreozzi is currently working under the direction of Erick Berglund, who will be relinquishing his responsibilities as Finance Officer when his membership expires on April 30th. Nominees for Chair and Finance Officer will be voted on at the May DCC meeting.

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Zoning:

Edward and Sandra Cross – Range and Ridge Roads – Map 414 Lots 71 and 72

The Zoning Board of Appeals is scheduled to hold a public hearing on April 14th. Edward and Sandra Cross will be requesting a lot line adjustment to swap acreage between their two lots on Range and Ridge Roads, Map 414 Lots 71 and 72. With respect to the Cross subdivision, Erroll Rhodes shared that he spoke with Town Planner, Sylvia Von Aulock and was informed that the petitioners would be coming before the ZBA with a more compliant plan.

Moschella – 115 Nottingham Rd – Map 416 Lot 69

An April 27th ZBA hearing will appeal a February denial of a variance to construct a barn which would encroach within 51 feet of a wetland in spite of current zoning that mandates a 100-foot setback. The petitioner will be represented by BMC Environmental & Land Law. Members questioned why an alternate site was not selected. It was explained that the owner felt that the barn was needed to store and work on equipment and that the requested location was the most favorable for retaining their pastureland.

Regulated Wetlands & Shorelands – Permits/Applications/Potential Violations:

DCC Review #2020-02

DES-Land Resources Management

NHDES Permitting File Number 2021-00266

NHDES Compliance File# 2020-02413

145 South Rd – Map 420 Lots 57, 57.1 & 57.2

On February 24th DCC sent a letter to NHDES outlining DCC's concerns and recommendations on the activity that had taken place on the property. On March 8th, DCC received a **reply from NHDES, acknowledging DCC's letter**, stating that the document would be **made a part of the NHDES Wetlands Bureau review of the owner's application**. A copy of the DCC letter was sent to the landowner in DES correspondence dated April 1, 2021.

In order to complete its evaluation of the *Standard Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit Application (RSA 482-A)*, **DES determined that they must receive a response to the DCC comments from the owner no later than May 31, 2021, with a copy to the DCC, or the application would be denied**. A 60-day extension could be requested. The NHDES Wetlands Bureau will approve or deny the application within 30 days of receipt of all required information, or schedule a public hearing, if required by RSA 482-A.

DCC Review #2020-04

DES File# 2020-0248 (Map 424-99)

Deerfield Fair Association – Deerfield Fairgrounds

Land consultant Alden Beauchemin and NH DES David Price have tentatively arranged to meet at the site to discuss the existence of jurisdictional wetlands in the vicinity of the work area. No new information is available at this time.

Announcements/Correspondence:

Bear Brook Steering Committee

The Draft Management Plan is complete and may be reviewed at: **bear-brook-state-park_mgt-plan_draft_3-2021.pdf**

He May Be Leaving, But He's Still Ours!!!!

Erick Berglund thanked the DCC for the opportunity to serve for over 20 years. Erick began his service at the time when Bear-Paw became active and, as he put it, *things really began to turn around*. He characterized his membership as both interesting and educational. Undoubtedly, any members who succeed him will certainly have some big boots to fill! Erick can and should be proud of the significant contributions he has made to *...providing for the protection and appreciation of the magnificent beauty and heritage of Deerfield*, which we're sure won't end with his resignation!!

Wes Golomb moved to adjourn with a second from Erik Berglund. Chair Frey adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 10, 2021

(Please check the website townofdeerfieldnh.com for scheduling changes)

These minutes were prepared and submitted by Judy Marshall. Revisions, if any, will be contained in the minutes of the next meeting and posted to the Town website, after approval by the Deerfield Conservation Commission